

25 Feb 1970

Harold:

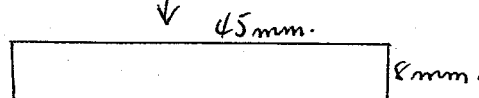
I have much good mail from you, and again may have to answer it piecemeal. This letter concerns what I mentioned before about the possibility of JFK being head-shot after death in order to produce ~~xxxxxxx~~ an entrance hole where one was badly needed. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Since you add nothing substantive to what you have already said, I am going to put that notion aside-- at least not bother with it unless something is learned to support it. My writing only to you about this is an indication of how "far out" I myself think it is, and with what little enthusiasm I want to push it. Nevertheless, let me tell you what caused me to entertain the idea, so that if you should bump into something that substantiates it, you will not dismiss indications as inherently unreliable.

The notion popped into my head not from instinctive suspicion of those who handled the body, but from a substantive and prominent contradiction in the way observers describe the minute "dust-like" particles in JFK's head.

Humes and Kellerman saw at least one head X-ray that showed the "dust" in JFK's brain. Both describe 30 or 40 such particles (keep in mind that in fact there were probably many more which were not represented on the X-ray, since some are hidden behind others). What is important here is that both H and K say that the particles were distributed throughout the brain. I am aware that that description is limited in its value, for it is not specific regarding the precise distribution of the fragments, but I consider it significant that they ~~xxxxx~~ reported a rather dispersed distribution of the fragments. Before the Panel Report was issued, I had guessed that JFK had been hit from the front by a varminting bullet and predicted (I can't remember to whom) that the X-rays would show that the "dust" was concentrated in the front part of the head, that the ~~xxxx~~ great majority of particles would occur in the front area.

I was gratified, then, and not the least surprised, when the Panel reported that indeed the fragments were concentrated in the front part of the brain, just as I had thought they would be. The bedazzled elation that I felt over correctly guessing the situation caused me to overlook an important feature ~~xxxxx~~ of the Panel's description that seriously contradicts what H and K said about the distribution of the "dust". I did indeed note the contradiction, but in my mind I tended to explain it away on the ground that ~~xxx~~ H and K had erroneously described too diverse a distribution of ~~xxxx~~ "dust", and that the Panel had erroneously described too concentrated a distribution.

You will recall that the Panel says that the "dust" is concentrated in an area "45 mm long and 8mm wide" (p.11). This is a far smaller area than I had anticipated. I wondered what could be the cause of the Panel's making such an error, but I did not suppose that it was anything but an error.



BW 11/17
 If a contact wound ~~xxxx~~ had been administered to JFK's head as I described, there would be other indications of it, although not conclusive in themselves. The contact wound of entrance would be ragged (how ragged would depend on the cartridge used), and the outline of the muzzle of the gun might be evident on the surface with which it was in contact when the gun was fired (this, however, could be covered up if a piece of paper or something of that sort were laid over the flesh before the bullet was fired into the body).

That's about it. I think it makes a pretty good case, but I would not push it at all hard unless there were more to substantiate it. Without it, however, I know of no other way to explain the odd concentration of "dust" that the Panel describes-- I would be forced to assume that the Panel's description is somehow wrong, which indeed is what I did before this other notion grabbed me.

It's possible, but not yet decided, that I may send this and my previous letter on this matter to Gary. Since he is attached to a hospital, he may have an opportunity to see some X-rays taken of people who have suffered contact wounds, and possibly confirm or vitiate my analysis. I'll let you know if I send it to him.

More mail will follow when I get a chance.

Still,

Dick

P.S. Enclosed are the stamps that you sent to me for cigar mailings. Too bad I can't send you more. If you change your mind, let me know, although I do not encourage it, for you must look out for your health.